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## (54) PROPAGATOR

(71) I, BRIAN HOPLEY, a British Subject, of "Hamara", Mapole Road, Wickham Bishops, Essex, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an assembly which is suitable for use as a propagator and as a package for marketing both a growing medium and seeds to be planted and propagated.

The assembly consists, in a preferred embodiment, of three elements. The main element provides a plurality of containers for a growing medium.

The second of the elements is in the form of a strip having circular depressions therein which, when the assembly is being used as a package, fit tightly into the mouths of the containers to retain the growing medium therein, and, when this assembly is being used as a propagator, provide a base on which the containers are able to stand.

The third of the elements is made of a transparent material and, when the assembly is being used as a propagator, this third element acts as a light transmitting cover. During the use of the assembly as a package, the third element accommodates the major portion of each container.

Seed packs, which are marketed with the assembly, are held in place in the package by projections on the second of the elements.

The preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the assembly with the elements arranged to provide a package, and

Fig. 2 illustrates, by means of a partly exploded perspective view, the assembly with the elements arranged to constitute a propagator.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown an element 1, made of an opaque plastics

material, and having a dished upper part 2 from which a number of cylindrical containers 3, best seen in Figure 2, depend. The containers 3 contain a growing medium 4, for example vermiculite.

A cover strip element 5, also made of an opaque plastics material and best seen in Figure 1, has a number of circular depressions 6 and, when the assembly is marketed and it is arranged as a package, the element 5 fits as a push-fit tightly into the upper part 2 of the element 1 so that the depressions 6 fit tightly in the mouths of the containers 3 to close the containers and keep the growing medium in place. Seed packs 7 are arranged on top of the depressions 6, as indicated in outline at 7a and by arrow 8 (Fig. 1). The packs 7 are retained in position above the depressions 6 by means of projections 9, which are formed in the side walls of the element 5, as indicated at 10 and 12. The depressions 6 accommodate the bottoms of the containers 3 when the assembly is used as a propagator, as shown in Figure 2, so that the strip element 5 acts as a base for the element 1.

An element 13 of transparent plastics material has a dished portion 14 and cylindrical projecting portions 15 which, when the assembly is arranged as a package, accommodate the containers 3, as shown in Figure 1. In the particular embodiment being described, the containers 3 extend, when the assembly is arranged as a package, to the bottom of the projecting portions 15, although it will be understood that the invention is not limited to such an arrangement.

In using the assembly as a propagator, the cover strip element 5 is removed from the position shown in Figure 1 to that shown in Figure 2 and seeds from each of the packs are scattered on the suitably moistened growing medium 5 of a respective container 3. It will be seen from Figure 2, that the transparent element 13 is then arranged, as indicated by arrow 16, with its dished portion 14 fitting in the dished upper part 2 of the element 1 and its cylindrical

- projecting portions 15 each arranged above a respective container 3, so that an individual sheltered growing space is provided by the portions 15 for the seeds in each of the containers 3. The three elements 1, 5, and 13 are symmetrical so that they can be assembled easily.
- It will be understood that, although the present invention has been described, by way of example, with reference to a particular embodiment, variations and modifications can be made within the scope of the appended claims.
- WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—
1. An assembly which is suitable for use as a propagator including a first element providing a plurality of containers for a growing medium, a second element having a plurality of portions each arranged to close a respective one of the said containers to retain a growing medium therein and a third element of transparent material having a plurality of projecting portions, each of the said projecting portions being arranged to provide a sheltered growing space above a respective container when the third element is placed on the first element.
2. An assembly as claimed in Claim 1 in which each container fits within a respective one of the projecting portions.
3. An assembly as claimed in either Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the said portions of the second element are a push-fit in the mouths of the containers.
4. An assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein projections are provided on the second element to retain seed packs in place.
5. An assembly which is suitable for use as a propagator, substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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